The FCI, in association with State Governments and their agencies like the State Civil Supplies Corporations, State Marketing Federations and State Warehousing Corporations undertake procurement operations.

(b) to (d) Procurement of foodgrains under the Price Support Scheme is in operation primarily in States/Regions which have marketable surplus. The previous experience of procurement of rice in Assam by the FCI had not been encouraging and only negligible quantities of rice were procured in the State between 1993-94 to 1996-97. Six Centres have been identified by the FCI for procurement of levy rice during the Kharif Marketing Season, 2002-03 in the Revenue Districts of Nalbari, Darrang, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur and Kamrup and action is being taken by the FCI, in consultation with the State Government, to notify the Centres. The Government of Assam has also indicated its willingness to undertake decentralized procurement of paddy/rice and has formulated a detailed proposal in this behalf. The Scheme has not been implemented so far because the formal approval of the State Government has yet to be received.

Increase in wages of workers

*439. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the daily wage workers engaged in the offices, where five-days a week working system is prevailing, are in great distress due to non-increase of their wages since a long time while the wages of the workers engaged in the offices with a six days a week system have already been increased;

(b) if so, by when their wages would be increased;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) when their wages were last increased?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) The wages of the daily wage workers engaged in the offices of the Central Government located in Delhi are paid as per the rates revised by the Government of NCT of Delhi from time to time. The rates of minimum wages notified/revised by the Government of NCT of Delhi are in terms of per month and per day wages are calculated by dividing the said monthly wage figure by 26 (by deducting the number of weekly holidays from the

number of days is a month). Wherever five days week is in vogue, the daily wages may be calculated with reference to the monthly wages by dividing the monthly wage by 22.

(b) to (d) The minimum wages are revised by the Government of NCT of Delhi twice a year in February and August by adding dearness allowance on the basis of the rise in Consumer Price Index Number. The minimum wages were last revised with effect from 1.8.2002 vide order dated 30.10.2002.

Regularisation of Hindi Officers

*440. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL/BSNL has not yet regularised the Hindi Officers working for the last ten to twelve years; and

(b) when the cadre of Hindi Officers was reviewed last, so that only departmental candidates are posted as Directors?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was no post of Director (Official Language) in the field units prior to or after the formation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited/ Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited. Further, there were only two grades in the Official Language Services, *i.e.* Assistant Director (Official Language) and Deputy Director (Official Language) and the cadre of Assistant Director (Official Language) and Deputy Director (Official Language) is not an Organised Service. Therefore, as per existing guidelines, no such review has been carried out at any stage.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Benefits of PMRY

†2979. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.